



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maine*

100 Middle Street
6th Floor, East Tower
Portland, ME 04101

(207) 780-3257
TTY (207) 780-3060
Fax (207) 780-3304

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Contact: Gail Fisk Malone
Assistant United States Attorney
Tel: (207) 945-0373

Augusta Woman Sentenced for Embezzlement From the Maine Education Association

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Catherine Crosier**, 45, of Augusta, was sentenced Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Bangor to six months in prison for embezzlement from the Maine Education Association. She was also ordered to pay restitution of \$45,503 to the MEA and to serve three years on supervised release following the prison term. Crosier had entered a guilty plea last November.

According to court records, from May 2002 to January 2004, Crosier was an assistant to the MEA controller. The MEA is a labor organization representing employees of schools, universities, and the Maine Public Broadcasting Network statewide. MEA's accounting policy required that all checks issued from the MEA checking account be supported by vouchers and invoices or receipts. Before checks could be issued, the vouchers required approval by an authorized employee, as well as signatures from both the person requesting the checks and two other signatories. Checks for less than \$250.00 were issued bearing computer-generated facsimile signatures.

Crosier was authorized to approve vouchers for checks of \$250 or less. She wrote 145 unauthorized checks totaling over \$35,000 from the MEA account payable to herself, each for May 8, 2007 less than \$250. She wrote an additional 43 unauthorized checks unsupported by vouchers, each for less than \$250.00 but totaling almost \$10,000. These checks were drawn on the MEA account and payable to Petty Cash. Crosier then cashed the checks and converted the funds to her own use. After Crosier had reconciled the MEA account with the monthly statements, she concealed the discrepancies and destroyed the checks.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Labor Standards.

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